

*Application No.: 09/891,367  
Reply dated November 30, 2006  
Reply to Office Action of October 12, 2006*

*Docket No.: 0505-0840P  
Art Unit: 3627  
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### **REMARKS**

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-9, 15-16, and 21-27 are pending. No claims have been amended. Claims 10-14 and 17-20 were previously cancelled. Claims 1 and 21 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the remarks set forth herein.

### **Reasons for Entry of Amendments**

At the outset, it is respectfully requested that this Reply be entered into the Official File in view of the fact that the sole reference (McPhee et al. U.S. 7,117,060) cited by the Examiner in the rejection has been disqualified as Prior Art by the submission of Verified English Translation of the priority document (JP 2000-192585). JP 2000-192585 was filed on June 27, 2000, which is prior to the filing date January 26, 2001 of MCPhee et al.

Accordingly, the claims of the present application as set forth in the Amendment dated July 28, 2006 automatically place the application in condition for allowance.

In the alternative, if the Examiner does not agree that this application is in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that this Reply be entered for the purpose of appeal. These remarks were not presented at an earlier date in view of the fact that the Examiner has just now presented new grounds for rejection in this Final Office Action.

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**Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)**

Claims 1-9, 15,16, and 21-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over McPhee et al. (U.S. 7,117,060). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

**Verification of Translation of Priority Document (JP 2000-192585)**

The Applicants have attached a verified English Translation of Priority Document JP 2000-192585 filed in Japan on June 27, 2000. The priority date of June 27, 2000 of the present application is before the U.S. effective filing date January 26, 2001 of McPhee et al. (U.S. 7,117,060). Accordingly, McPhee et al. (U.S. 7,117,060) is disqualified as Prior Art and cannot be used to reject the claims of the present application.

Therefore, independent claims 1 and 21 are in condition for allowance.

**Dependent Claims**

All dependent claims are in condition for allowance due to their dependency from allowable independent claims, or due to the additional novel features set forth therein.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are respectfully requested.

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**CONCLUSION**


All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 208-4030 (direct line).

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Dated: November 30, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Verified English Translation of Priority Document JP 2000-192585

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